

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 16, 2011

S. 401 Public Corruption Prosecution Improvements Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 28, 2011

S. 401 would broaden the coverage of current laws that address public corruption and would increase penalties for such offenses. The legislation would expand the number of offenses relative to fraud committed by public officials that could be federally prosecuted. CBO estimates that S. 401 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting S. 401 could affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any net effects would be insignificant for each year.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 401 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely affected.

S. 401 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Martin von Gnechten. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.